

ILLINOIS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION CENTER



\$231 million in new and retained sales
\$35 million in new investments
3,160 jobs created or retained

Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center (IMEC) is a team of experienced continuous improvement experts who work with small and mid-sized Illinois manufacturers to be more productive and globally competitive. IMEC's hands-on training and consulting services enable manufacturers to develop profitable growth strategies, improve quality, contain operating costs, increase capacity and on-time delivery, and solve technical operating problems such as product defects or process bottlenecks.

Manufacturers assisted by IMEC achieve productivity gains more than seven times greater than firms that don't receive similar assistance. They increase sales, hire workers and modernize when others typically scale back. Third-party post-project surveys confirm that IMEC annually generates more than \$100 million in validated improvements in manufacturing performance.

Today, small and mid-sized manufacturers throughout Illinois provide leading-wage jobs, are key links in global supply chains, and provide components to multi-nationals in sectors such as agriculture, automotive, aerospace, and construction equipment. Still others produce their own original equipment and consumer products and are known for some of the best known brands in the world. Challenges faced by these companies are obvious, like difficulty attracting and keeping skilled labor. Others are more complex, like aging equipment, outdated technology, and competition from lower cost overseas producers. What's clear is that smaller firms who do not keep pace with today's standards of productivity and quality are at risk. IMEC manufacturing experts work on-site with the leaders of smaller manufacturing companies to help them increase operating efficiency, reduce defects, and prepare their teams to succeed long term.

For more information, contact:



7 field offices throughout Illinois

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* Impacts are based on clients receiving service in FY2009



CLIENT SUCCESS: ENERGY DYNAMICS

“IMEC’s business model is geared toward small and mid-sized businesses. Their people are seasoned professionals who are proud of what they know and what they do.”

Patrick Bye, President
Energy Dynamics

Aerospace Certification Gives Energy Dynamics a Competitive Edge

Energy Dynamics is a precision machining company that produces customized forgings and castings, and other component parts from steel alloy, aluminum, and bronze. The company employs 13 people at its facility in Machesney Park, Illinois.

Situation:

With a goal to double its revenues in five years, Energy Dynamics was focused on diversifying its customer base, specifically into the aerospace industry. The company had ISO 9001:2000 certification and a strong reputation for quality built over nearly 30 years in business. However, the company wanted to pursue AS9100 certification, a comprehensive quality system for the aircraft, space and defense industries, to acquire an edge in the competitive aerospace market. Company leaders were stretched thin dealing with a growing business and needed support to work through the complex certification process. Energy Dynamics contacted the Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center (IMEC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

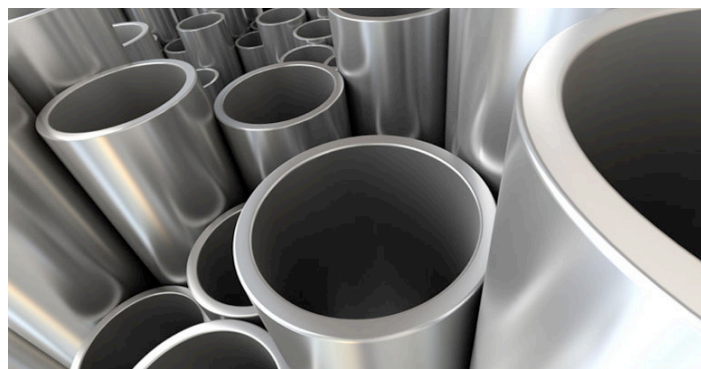
Solution:

IMEC and Energy Dynamics worked together to develop a plan for achieving AS9100 certification, identify goals for the process and map out a time frame for implementation. Company leaders managed the work internally with the IMEC consultant reviewing progress, serving as a sounding board to prepare the company for the certification audit and working on-site as needed to keep the project on track. As a result of IMEC’s assistance, Energy Dynamics successfully completed its AS9100 audit, gained immediate credibility with customers in a new industry, and created a workforce united around a common goal.

Results:

- * Achieved AS9100 certification.
- * Achieved a more competitive and profitable position.

**\$500,000 anticipated
sales increase**



Jan 2011